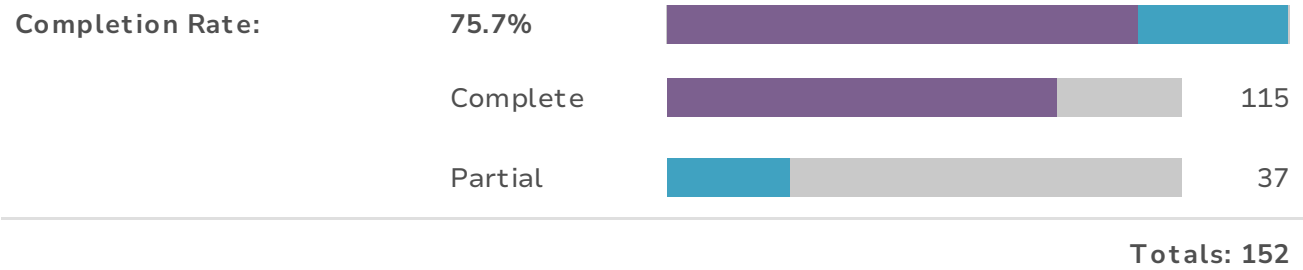
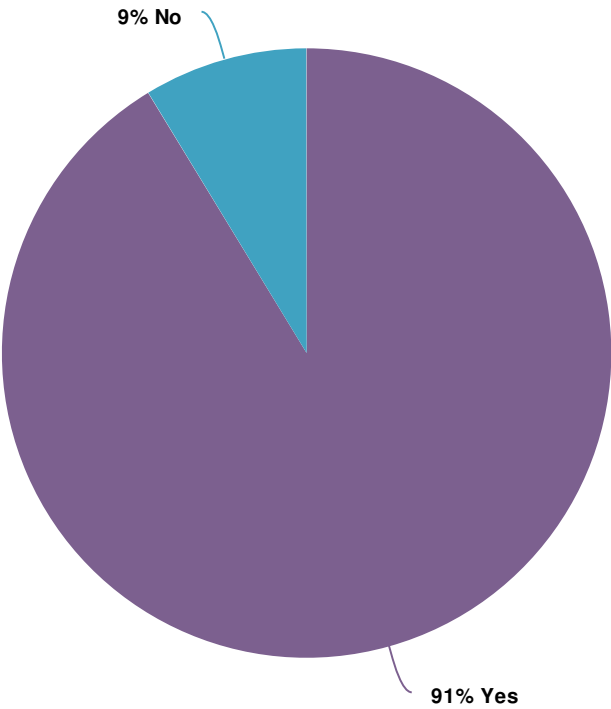


Report for Cummington Resident Survey by the Planning Board

Response Counts



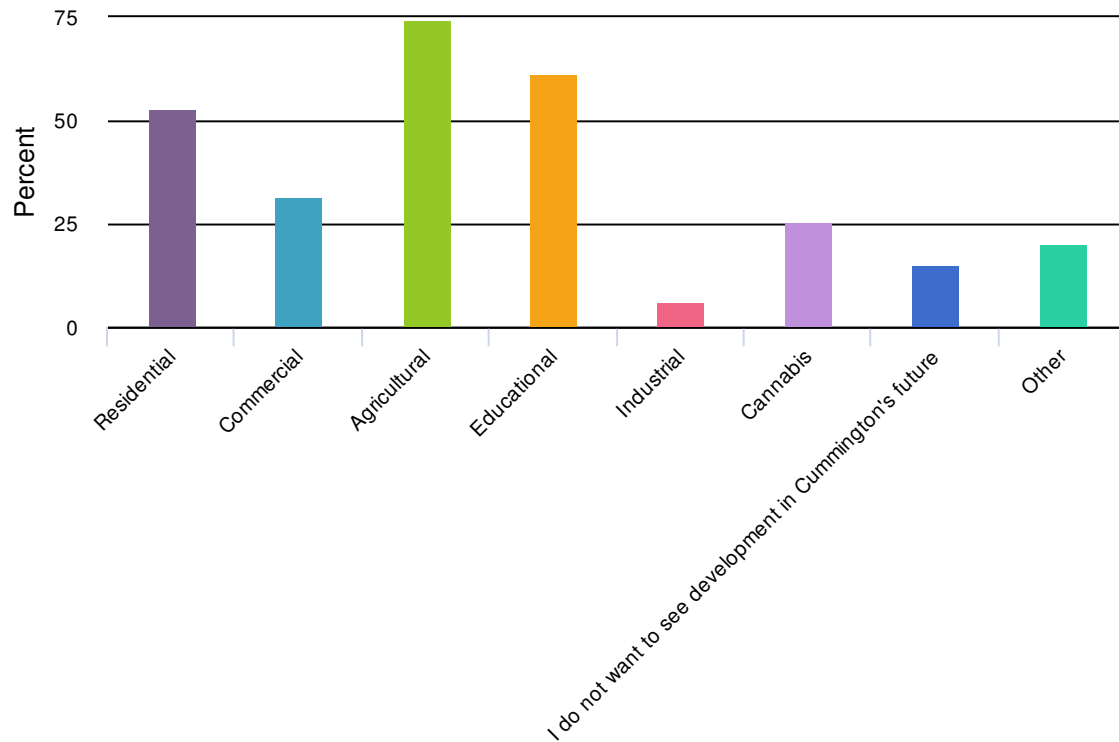
1. Are you a voting resident of Cummington?











Value		Percent	Responses
Yes	<div><div></div></div>	91.3%	105
No	<div><div></div></div>	8.7%	10

Totals: 115

2. What type of development would you like to see in Cummington's future?



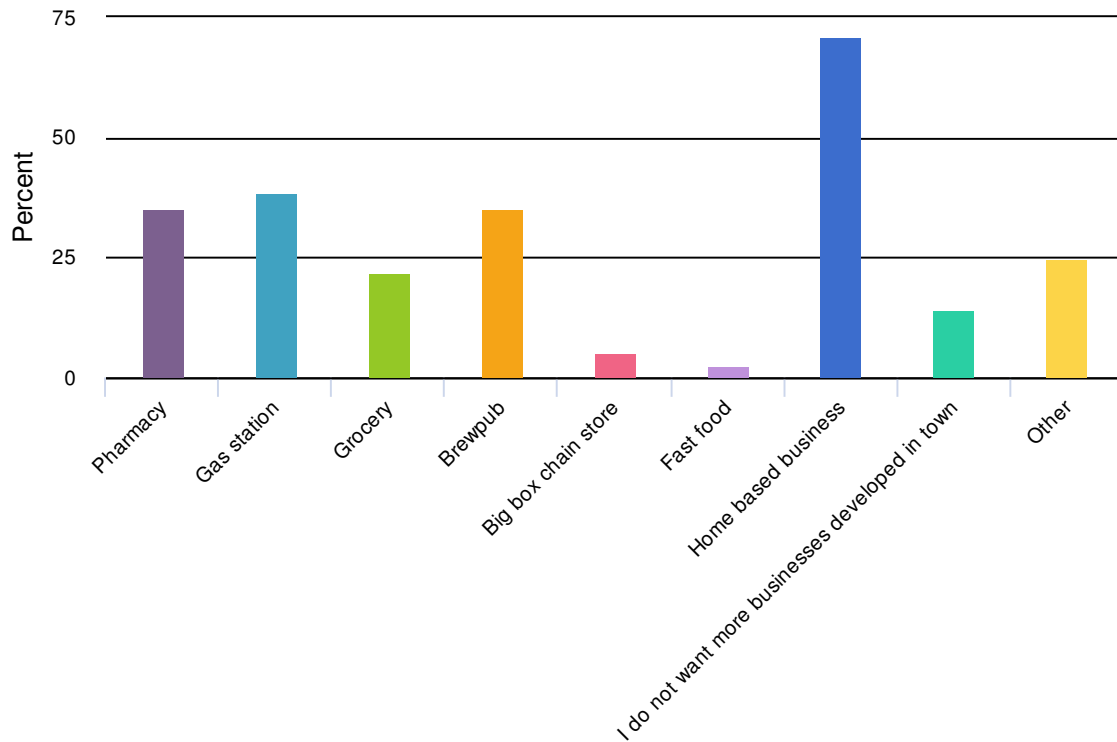
Value		Percent	Responses
Residential		52.6%	60
Commercial		31.6%	36
Agricultural		74.6%	85
Educational		61.4%	70
Industrial		6.1%	7
Cannabis		25.4%	29
I do not want to see development in Cummington's future		14.9%	17
Other		20.2%	23










Other	Count
Art and cultural facilities	1
Arts & culture	1
Totals	23

Other	Count
Arts, performance	1
Home based business	1
I would like to see continued prioritization and preservation of local agriculture	1
I'm reluctant but not opposed to all development but it needs to be aligned with this small towns character and be well thought through.	1
More senior housing	1
Recreational	1
Small scale, sustainable, environmentally friendly	1
Small/local home business	1
artistic	1
arts & cultural, recreational, conservation land, small sustainable farms, small home businesses like child care, arts education, etc.	1
arts and crafts; agricultural consistent with protection of nature; definitely not cannabis	1
arts, music	1
following the small footprint by-lawst, proper lighting, noise containment, estheticly pleasing to rural architecture	1
independent small business	1
locally owned small businesses	1
music, arts	1
possibly residential; recreational. Scale is important. As little development as is sustainable.	1
return of elementary school	1
slow development	1
small local business	1
Totals	23

Other	Count
small restaurant	1
Totals	23

3. What type of business(es) would you like to see developed in Cummingtown? Check all that apply.




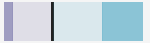




Value		Percent	Responses
Pharmacy		35.1%	40
Gas station		38.6%	44
Grocery		21.9%	25
Brewpub		35.1%	40
Big box chain store		5.3%	6
Fast food		2.6%	3
Home based business		71.1%	81
I do not want more businesses developed in town		14.0%	16
Other		24.6%	28


Other	Count
restaurant	3
Totals	28

Other	Count
Arts	1
Arts and artisans, small restaurant (not chain)	1
Bookstore	1
Businesses that utilize existing structures like the school with an emphasis on preservation and maintenance of said buildings.	1
Cafe; arts & performance venue	1
Farm stand, craft store, book store, theater, etc. Think big box chains would detract from unique character & distinct feeling of place that Cummington has.	1
Farmers market	1
Farms, artisans, cobblers, millers, coopers, etc.	1
Restaurant	1
Small cottage industry	1
Small locally owned businesses	1
Success of the Creamery, emphasis on sustainable local farm businesses	1
Visitor's Center	1
agricultural, craft, educational, arts	1
any	1
arts and recreation	1
hairdresser, repair of lawnmowers, chainsaws, like it was in the '60's	1
limited other small businesses	1
local based indoor farmer's market and performance space	1
pizza parlor	1
private schools	1
recreational	1
Totals	28

Other	Count
small repair shops.	1
small restaurant, community all weather pool and exercise opportunities	1
technology based businesses	1
Totals	28

4. Rank the top 4 aspects of rural character that are most important to you?

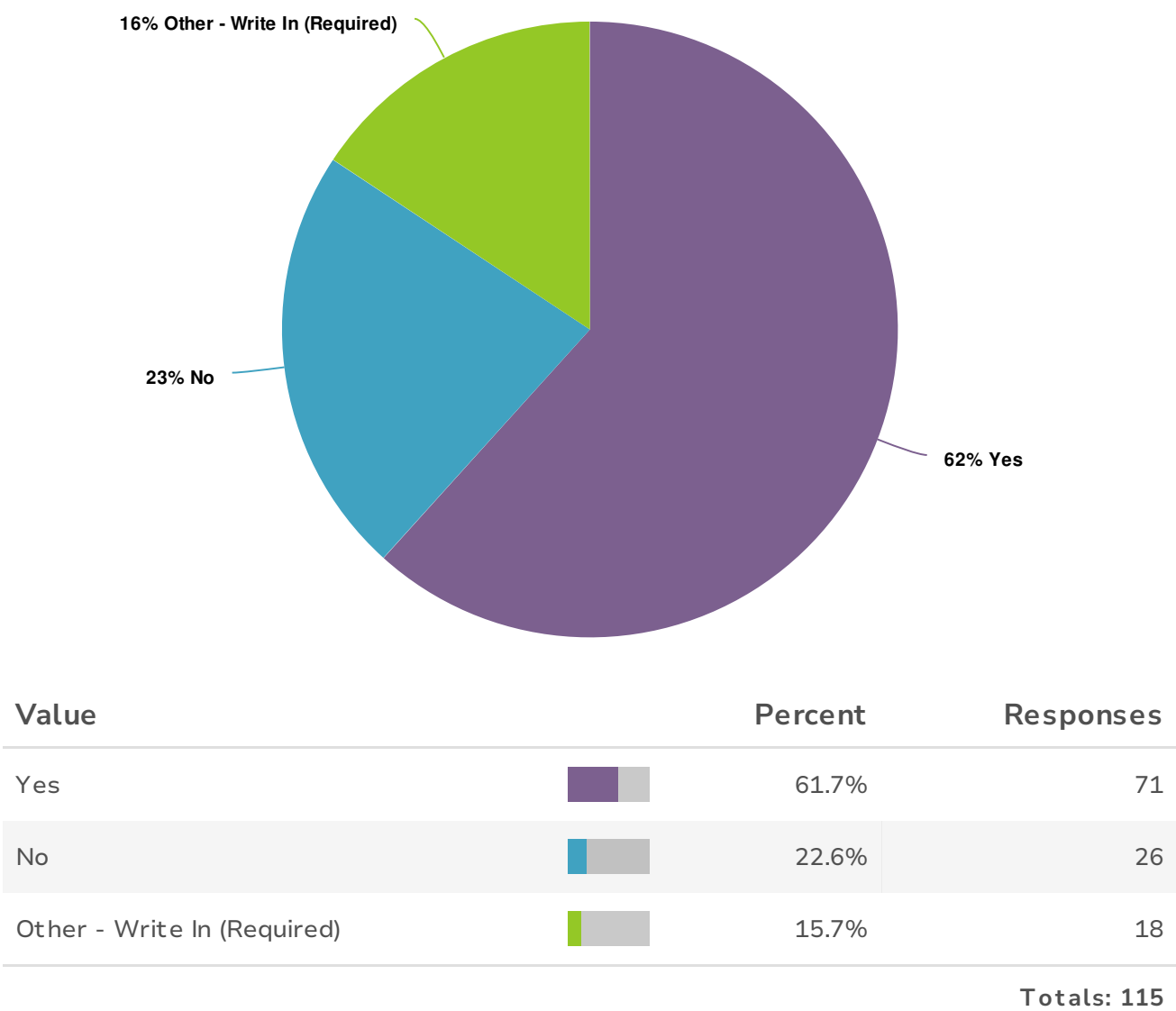
Item	Overall Rank	Rank Distribution	Score	No. of Rankings
Dark night skies	1		300	99
Active agriculture in town	2		271	94
Priority on local businesses in town	3		219	85
The architecture of buildings	4		157	79
Fewer rules and regulations	5		69	30
I do not value "rural character" in Cummington	6		5	2



Lowest Rank

Highest Rank

5. Do you think there should be a size restriction on non-residential development? (Does not apply to municipal development) For reference below, municipal building footprints in sq. ft.: Public Safety Complex 9,600 sq. ft. Community House 5,364 sq. ft. Highway Garage 3,264 sq. ft. Highway Sand Barn 2,400 sq.ft.



Other - Write In (Required)	Count
10000	1
2,400 sq. ft.	1
3000	1
3500	1
5000	1
Dependent on location	1
Depends on the type of development	1
I think it should be approved on a case by case basis with town input on the most impactful projects.	1
I would think that depends on it's impact.	1
I'm not sure	1
Needs to be done on a case-by-case proposal.	1
Not sure	1
depends on what makes sense	1
not at this time	1
not if out of public view	1
not sure	1
not sure, depends on project	1
square feet is 2 dimensional- so these don't matter	1
Totals	18

6. If yes, what size restriction would you like?

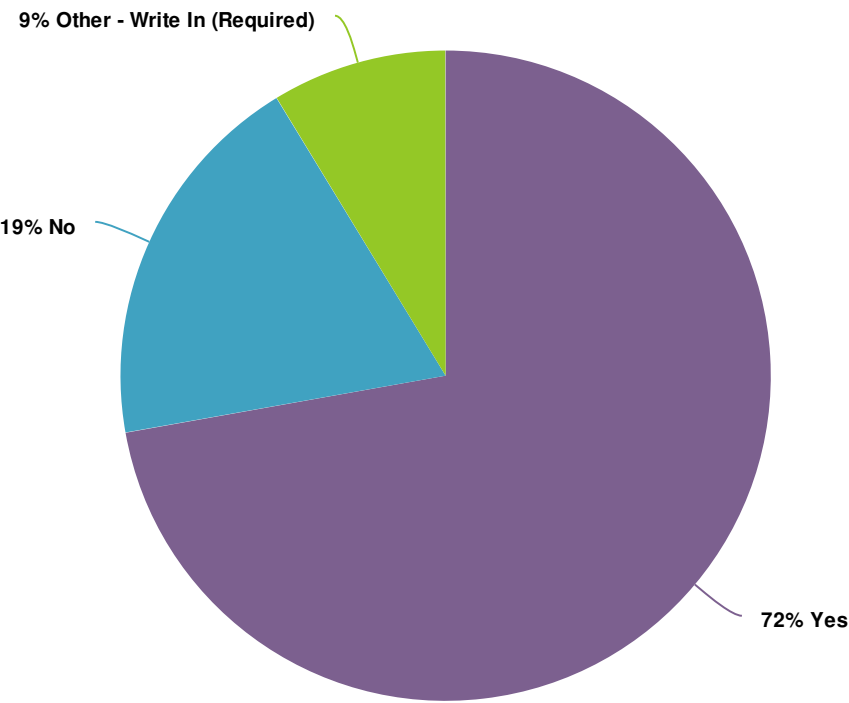
ResponseID	Response
11	10,000 sq ft
21	6000 sf
22	3000 sq ft
29	10,000 sq. ft.
37	3000 sq ft
39	dependent on location
41	Keep things small, it's a small town
42	5500
43	5,000 sq ft
45	Undecided, but no big box complexes
49	up to 4000 sq.ft.
50	?
51	15,000 sq. ft.
54	9000 sq.ft.
55	nothing in excess of 3,000 SF
56	5000
57	5000 sq.ft. (approx)
60	By approval by zba and ratified by town vote
65	5,000 sq ft
70	No gas stations, no big box businesses
72	no greater than Community House
75	Under 10,000 sq ft
77	3500

ResponseID	Response
79	6000 sq ft
81	3000
85	5000 sq ft
86	Nothing larger than the church on Main st.
89	small
90	5000 square feet without ZBA approval exceptions could be granted on case by case basis
91	5,000 sq. ft.
96	6000
98	10000
100	I am not sure
101	2400 square feet
102	8000 sq. ft.
103	10,000
104	5000 sf
106	3000
107	6000 sq.ft.
112	under 10,000 sq. ft
114	No big, no bigger than size of creamery
117	No more than 10,000 sq ft
118	4500 sq ft
120	5500 sq. ft.
121	Similar to residential
122	similar to residential

ResponseID Response

125	Like the Community House 5,364 sq. ft.
129	The restriction should be equivalent to the size of an average home in Cummington.
130	Not sure, but smaller 5,000 feet perhaps?
131	2400 sq ft
132	Not greater than 6000 sq ft
133	5000
135	not sure, maybe 5,000
136	1000 sq ft
137	need more info -- unsure
139	10000 sq ft
141	less than 8500 sq ft
143	3000
145	3000
150	6,000 sq. ft.

7. Do you think there should be a height restriction on non-residential development? (Does not apply to municipal development)

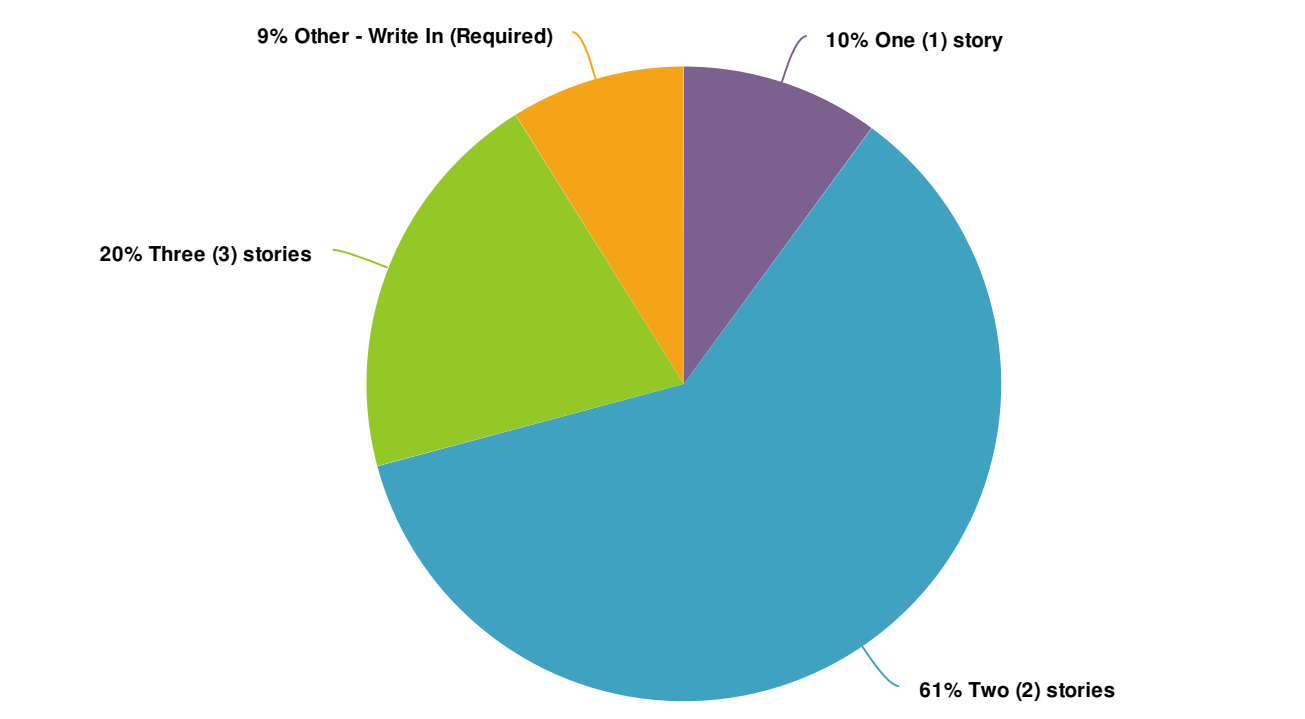


Value		Percent	Responses
Yes	<div><div></div></div>	72.2%	83
No	<div><div></div></div>	19.1%	22
Other - Write In (Required)	<div><div></div></div>	8.7%	10

Totals: 115

Other - Write In (Required)	Count
Case-by-case	1
Dependent on location	1
Depends on location (not in front of my house)	1
Everything is not equal. Depends on what type of business/building it is.	1
I think the building code already covers that	1
Not sure - but hard to imagine more than two story structures	1
Possibly, relative to it's surroundings	1
not if out of public view	1
not sure	1
style is important	1
Totals	10

8. If yes, what should the maximum height be on a non-residential building?



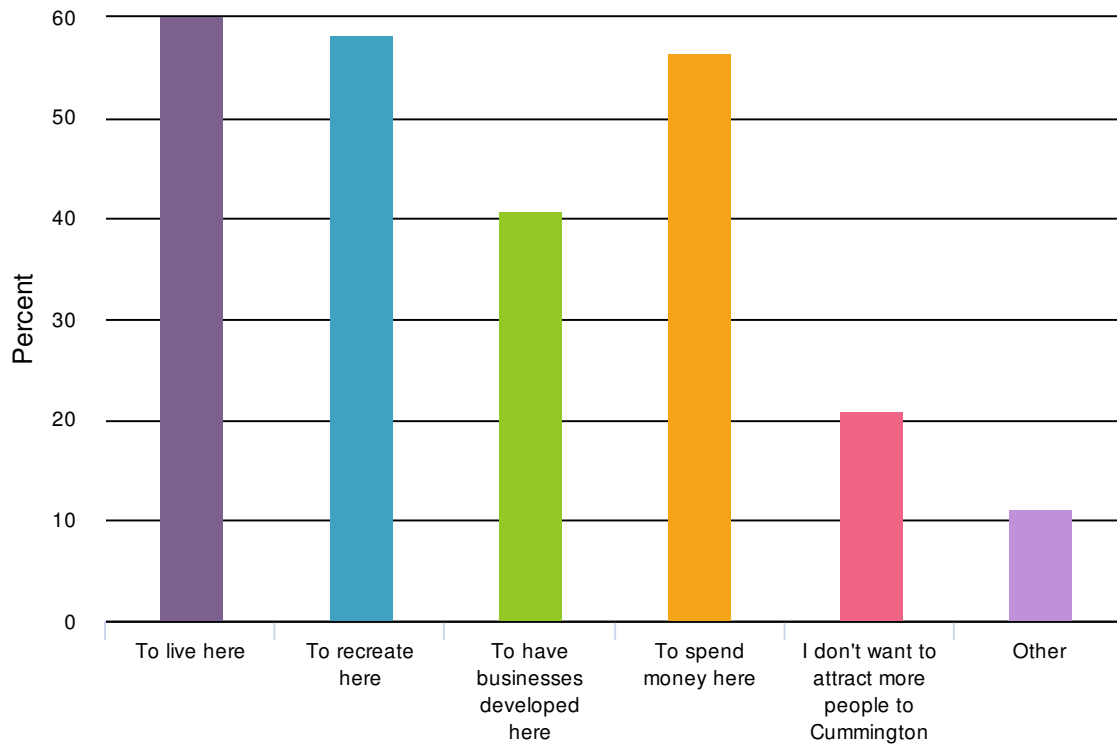
Value		Percent	Responses
One (1) story	<div><div></div></div>	10.1%	8
Two (2) stories	<div><div></div></div>	60.8%	48
Three (3) stories	<div><div></div></div>	20.3%	16
Other - Write In (Required)	<div><div></div></div>	8.9%	7
Totals: 79			







Other - Write In (Required)	Count
Again based on an average home.	1
I am not sure	1
don't know	1
not sure, 2 or 3 stories	1
reasonable	1
tbd	1
unsure -- need more info	1
Totals	7

9. On a scale of 1-5, please indicate your level of support for each of the following strategies for growth:

	1 - Strongly Oppose	2	3 - Neutral	4	5 - Strongly Support	Responses
Allow higher density housing types (e.g. homes on smaller lots, duplexes, town homes) in selected locations Count Row %	25 22.1%	24 21.2%	28 24.8%	26 23.0%	10 8.8%	113
Limit development to the capacity of our town's water supply (town water or water table where town water is not available) Count Row %	5 4.5%	7 6.3%	19 17.0%	23 20.5%	58 51.8%	112
Establish design standards for a walkable, mixed-use (Village Center District) Count Row %	9 7.8%	8 7.0%	20 17.4%	26 22.6%	52 45.2%	115
Establish more restrictive sign guidelines (e.g. implementing greater restrictions on size and lighting) Count Row %	10 8.8%	6 5.3%	26 22.8%	27 23.7%	45 39.5%	114
Totals						
Total Responses						115

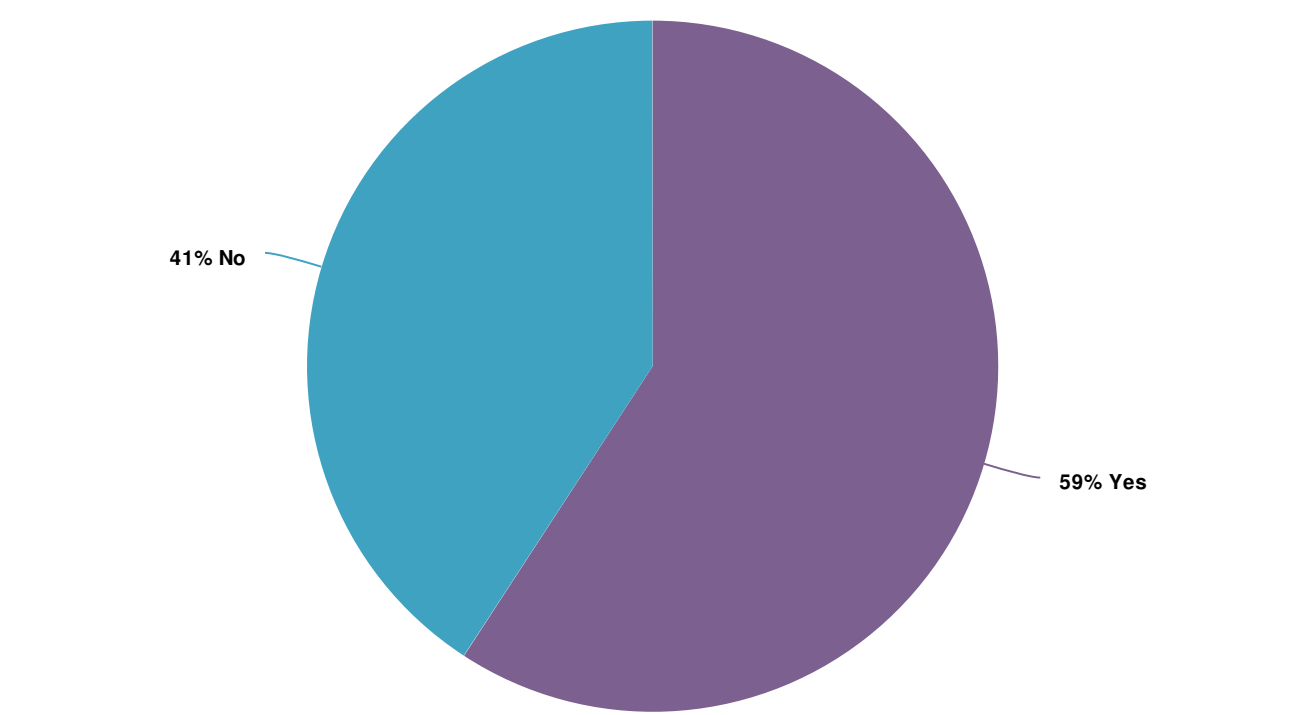
10. In what way(s) would you like to attract more people to Cummington? Check all that apply.



Value		Percent	Responses
To live here		60.0%	69
To recreate here		58.3%	67
To have businesses developed here		40.9%	47
To spend money here		56.5%	65
I don't want to attract more people to Cummington		20.9%	24
Other		11.3%	13

Other	Count
Artisans and craftspeople	1
But all very small scale (as in, more money spent at the Creamery)	1
I like the fact that it is a small town.	1
If the town is an attractive place (physically, socially, politically, educationally, financially, infrastructure, services etc) it will bring people in for all the things listed above, and more.	1
Lunch/supper at the Coop	1
To enjoy culture	1
To want to become a part of our community by filling the needs of the community and not their pocketbooks.	1
an elementary school would attract more families	1
attend cultural/ recreational events; think more conservation land, hiking trails, river walks could attract people	1
don't feel I know enough about impact/unforeseen consequences of these choices	1
more area transportation	1
small business	1
to live here with limitations for residential and business growth	1
Totals	13

11. Do you want cannabis businesses restricted to a particular section of Cummington?



Value		Percent	Responses
Yes	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	59.2%	61
No	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	40.8%	42

Totals: 103

12. If yes, where?

ResponseID	Response
11	Everywhere
20	not near residential homes where children are present and on large parcels where smell will not affect home owners outdoor enjoyment
21	away from main residential areas
22	back roads no lights
26	Any place apart from residences
31	Don't want one anywhere in town.
36	Anywhere but main street
37	Somewhere where the traffic won't be an issue for neighbors(if there is such a spot)
39	Not on Stage Road or historic areas. Locate where the people in the immediate area want it.
41	Off of back roads to limit excess traffic on quiet back roads
42	Town center, but better yet not at all. Perhaps cannabis could do mail delivery only.
43	out of sight from roads
45	Depends on type of operation: growing/testing facilities should be designed aesthetically, with limited frontage viewing. A dispensary location needs to be sited in a way to accomodate increased traffic and parking needs
49	Away from residential neighborhoods
50	Don't want any here
51	Route 9 corridor
54	?
55	Only in central business district
57	existing fields as os 1/1/2021
58	Far from residential. High traffic is not desirable.

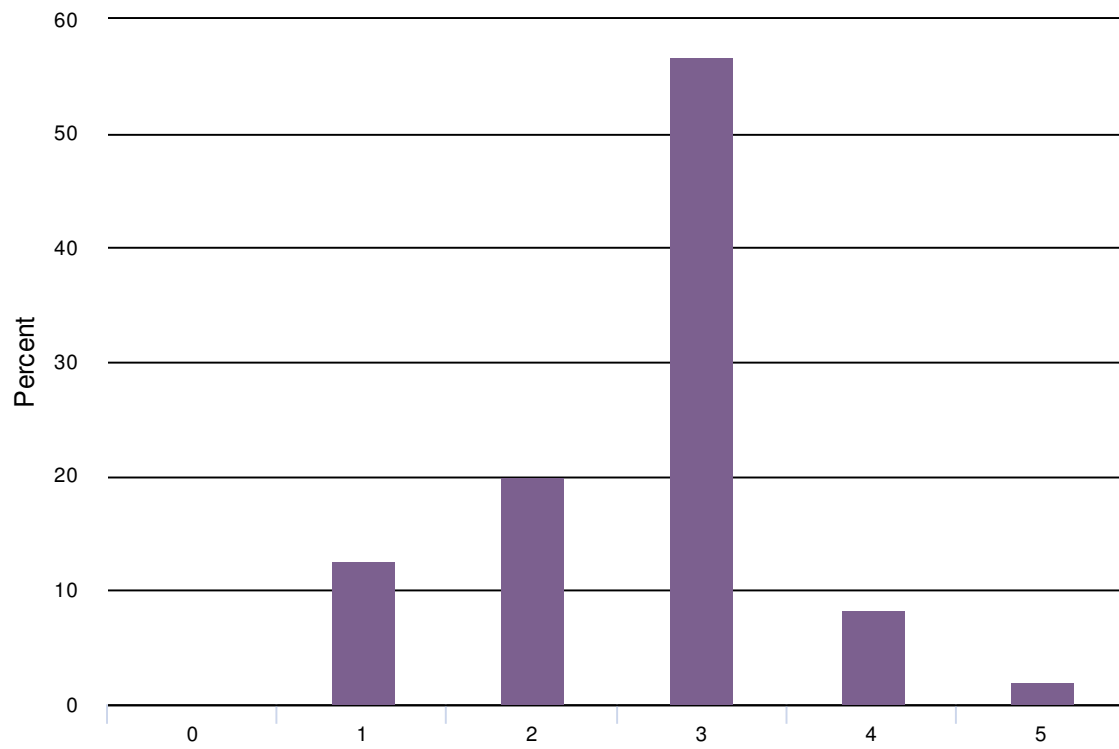
ResponseID	Response
60	Least dense population and where other development would be otherwise discouraged
63	Per By Law
65	In well wooded area away from residents.
67	Try 9
68	Ag only in Ag districts - no retail
70	downtown if at all
72	where they are invisible
77	Nonresidential areas
79	Agricultural Areas
83	Rural. Not in Main St.
89	don't know
90	Retail near or on Route 9 or Main Street
98	Uncertain
100	I don't have an idea
101	In the woods. . .not a fan as I feel it is like depending on military bases, etc. for economy; I would oppose casinos for the same reason
102	swamp or some other town
104	Not in village center
108	W. Cummington
111	outside Village
112	That would depend on the type of business, retail should be on main street, agricultural should be along fairgrounds rd.
118	tucked away from homes and businesses and families
120	not sure

ResponseID	Response
121	Near Public Service complex buildings
122	Near public service complex (police/highway depth/eyc.)
124	within tree-hidden zones
125	Not near anyone's house.
129	Not here.
130	Not sure I'd want a cannabis business anywhere in Cummington but didn't see that as a choice
131	your house
132	Downtown only
136	out of sight from any road with minimum traffic disruption to existing traffic patterns
139	Not on Main Street - tucked away a bit
141	.5 miles away from any and all existing housing and businesses
143	Ag only in Ag districts - no retail
144	Out of sight
145	The board should choose 1-2 lots adjacent to each active, licensed by CCC, open cannabis business to create an overlay cannabis district
147	Neighbor consent is important. There are the problems with smell and potential crime. I'm not sure I want it at all.
150	in areas that do not affect abutting landowners as far as noise, esthetics of character of road and lighting
151	lower density housing areas

13. How important are the following features of Cummington to you, with 1 being very important and 5 not being important at all.

	1 - Very important	2	3	4	5 - Not important at all	Responses
Rural character						
Count	97	6	6	3	2	114
Row %	85.1%	5.3%	5.3%	2.6%	1.8%	
Dark skies						
Count	87	15	5	3	4	114
Row %	76.3%	13.2%	4.4%	2.6%	3.5%	
Air and water quality						
Count	104	6	2	2	0	114
Row %	91.2%	5.3%	1.8%	1.8%	0.0%	
Totals						
Total Responses						114

14. How important are low property taxes?



15. What else would you like to share with the Planning Board regarding your vision for Cummington?

ResponseID	Response
4	Love the rural character, but do not like the implied restrictions in this survey.
6	Rural character is many times a perception unique to the individual. One person may interpret rural character as having a low density of development; another may only recognize it where there is a complete absence of man-made features, such as signs and buildings. I think before you can ask us most of the questions above you need to define "Rural Character" and what it means to the Planning Board & the residents of the town. I assume the results of this survey will be made readily available and posted on the Town website Why would I need to be on a mailing list to learn about upcoming meetings of interest, you are supposed to post all meeting minutes and agendas for the public to view. I just checked the town website and noticed that there are major gaps in your minutes.
7	I would like to see the planning board focus more on how we can attract residents and businesses to come to our community and focus less on restrictions. I feel if developers be it real estate or business even sense the Town of Cummington is restrictive or tough to do business with in terms of permitting, no one will want to even look at our community as a possibility. Thus stunting any potential growth the town may experience. We also should be focusing on support all businesses in the community. It is perceived that a lot of the planning boards focus is preserving one particular non profit organization We need a mix of businesses and residential growth to support our community.
11	I moved here to get away. Not to have everything follow me here.
12	A community arts center would be great!
14	More than 2 stories you will need to buy a aerial ladder truck for the fire dept.. \$\$
20	If we attract the right type of conveniences (doctors, pharmacy, convenience/ gas station, restaurant, school) more families will move here. With Cummington's current state the people that live here will be of the older population with no one wanting to move in their home. Without modern conveniences mentioned above the homes once they become vacant will stay vacant and become an eyesore to the community.
21	We need more commercial tax base/cannabis tax revenue to offset the costs of having a better school option. We cannot attract families to buy homes and raise families in a town that doesn't have reasonable access to an elementary school.

ResponseID Response

22	no big box store like dollar general selling chinese crap to replace the beaver marsh no no no
23	The Town of Cummington needs to ensure its promoting new growth in our community. Weather it be residential, commercial or other wise. New growth is essential for the delivery of services and over all economic health of the Town. By enacting stringent in bylaws and attempting to define the 'Rural Character' with the perceived focus on limiting new growth will be an enormous detriment to the community as a whole and place an undue burden on taxpayers
24	I'd rather pay the taxes that I do than ruin the rural character, dark skies and air and water quality.
31	We bought a second home in Cummington for the peace and quiet, the dark skies and the small town feel. More one off local small businesses would be great, but we don't need convenience stores, chain retail or fast food establishments, and there should be strong restrictions on noise and light pollution.
36	I would love to see the old apple storage building site used for small shops. Possibly a restaurant space. If not that, we desperately need a gas station. With a charging station
37	I think if the town needs more income that it can be positive to allow more businesses, but we need to decide what kind of business adds to the towns character(ex.small independent local businesses) and what would damage it (large chains, big box etc)
39	I'm disappointed that the Planning Board has appeared to be more focused on gaining revenue than listening to the people living in the town. Cannabis facilities can be a source of income if located in an area that does not distract from the nature of the community. We value the quiet, rural environment of Cummington for ourselves and hope that this is available for generations to come.
41	I have lived in Cummington my whole life, over 40 years. Cummington is a small town and should remain that way and retain the small town character. Dirt roads should remain dirt roads. Big business should stay out of town. Businesses that attract a lot of traffic should stay off of the back roads! Agricultural lands should be preserved for agricultural use. Forests should be preserved. I live here for the sparse population and do not want a population or building boom. Then Cummington wouldn't be a small town and the friendly rural feel would be ruined. If I had to pay slightly more property tax to maintain that I would be okay with that.

ResponseID Response

42	I admire the town of Chatham, NY. On a compact and walkable Main Street are several excellent eateries (cafe, bakery, brewery, cheese shop, ice cream parlor), a movie theatre, yoga studio, boutiques, etc — all modestly sized and independently owned, with public parks nearby. Can/should Cummington aim to revitalize it's Main Street in this way? No big box stores or chain stores. No retail stores for cannabis.
43	Focus on maintaining and promoting rural New England aesthetic
44	We need to let in businesses so that our taxes can go down.
49	A community oriented by living together as full time and part time residences that respect the fragility of nature and considers the needs of people and their wellbeing.
51	A stable tax base with an eye open to more local employment opportunities.
55	I would like to see very strong guidelines for dark sky support - nothing over .5 ft candles/sf
56	I feel that the cannabis farm is not a good use of agricultural space and as such, a variance should not be made for its usage. I feel that the owners did not adequately or directly answer questions regarding their plans for establishing a grow in town. I'm happy to see people operate, non drug related, businesses out of their homes. I would like Cummington to retain its rural, not a lot of folks, quiet, safe characteristics.
57	Respect for its historic "personality."
60	Any significant development should have aesthetic merit as a consideration
63	Cultural district with activities build on our strengths. Up to code sidewalks/complete streets with crosswalks. Forward developmental thinking within the construct of rural character. More aggressive use of Grant moneys to promote our wonderful town.
65	No big box or chain stores.
67	Some destination to draw people to town like golf course or bike path ,restaurant ,swimming hole etc
68	Cummington has significant natural and cultural resources that coexist and integrate with agriculture and historic character. These resources can bring interest/attraction from outside the community. Basic "visitor services" like walking map, possible visitor kiosk make a lot of sense. Also, if there were even ONE public trans stop that comes 1ce daily could be available, I know at least three people that would use that for regular commuting.

ResponseID Response

69	I am still very concerned about the Dollar General and would like to know where things stand. Are they appealing? Where in the process is it now? How can we prevent it?
70	Keep Cummington rural. Keep it simple. Keep it small, full of farms , country folk and artists
72	Much of this is a question of degree. There is a measure of inconvenience which filters many of the people who choose to live here. One has to be willing to put up with the "hardships" in order to gain the valued benefits. This implies restrictions which preserve the "hardships" and thus the "character" of the place. That said, there are problems which make life difficult for those who otherwise accept the challenges of rural life. Consider food, if the problem is access to affordable food, the solution is not limited to inviting in corporate chain stores. With creativity and a real understanding of the problem, better solutions might be found. In my view the key is understanding the problems and what residents care about, so we can be proactive, not just reactive, and thus hang on to and even improve the ruralness which many of us who live here value. Thanks for doing the survey. It is a start.
76	Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you got till its gone. They paved paradise and put up a parking lot.
77	I would like to have more trails like Ashfield trails. We don't have conservation areas. I love all our local businesses, the Creamery, our local artists. Address issue of buildings with excessive junk and trash, ie Home on route 9
79	N/A
84	This survey needs to be sent via snail mail for people without computers. Also, be careful of how may "rules" you put into place.
86	Question 9 should be removed from this survey. The question is worded to assume that we want the cannabis industry here at all. Allowing big businesses to exploit our town is not the financial answer. Cummington is an amazing place with so much beauty in its natural state. What we have and live everyday many people dream of and pay for on vacations. The opportunity to keep the town financially viable without destroying what is here will require some thinking outside the box. Everything the town needs is right here in front of us,it will just take the right minds to put it all in place!
89	keep this community as charming as it is.
90	Restrict development of large and disproportionately large retail, cannabis or other industrial business. Allow larger structures for farming or agricultural purposes.

ResponseID Response

91	I am disappointed that you have not asked citizens how much they value open space. I hope you have an Open Space Committee and an active OSRP. Will you include the Conservation Commission in any long range planning?
92	We need a bylaw prohibiting the running of hunting dogs all over town. Currently we experience out of state hunters running their hunting dogs chasing animals here in town where ever and whenever they please. We have no legal method of preventing this activity on a town wide basis. These "hunters" have radio collars attached to their dogs and the hunters sit in their vehicles anywhere in town, release their dogs to run, uncontrolled, anywhere they want while the "Hunters" track the dogs on computer screens until the dogs have cornered an animal then the "hunters" move to the location shown on their computer screen "for the kill." Not very sportsman like and, these "Hunters" have total disregard for property owners rights. The Hunters DO NOT ask permission to hunt or run their dogs on anyone's property, they simply arrive in town and begin where ever they want. I have personally had to call our police department because of the caustic attitudes of the "Hunters" when I confronted them for running their dogs across my property and front lawn!! Many of these "hunters" are from NY state where, I am advised, they are prohibited from this activity. As well they should be here.
94	get the traffic flow fixed at the transfer station
96	Better walking path from village to Creamery & Library, slower traffic on Route 9, a safe crossing from BT School to Apple Storage Lot, sidewalk extended from School to Iron Bridge, no vacant properties on Main St, more historical markers in front of historic houses, more public art, and an accessible community garden and orchard
98	Bring the school back. Brewpub/pizzeria needed.
100	I am sorry that I don't have clear suggestions or answers to some questions. I don't expect that we can have low property taxes without having more businesses to tax. So, I wish we could attract small businesses and more agriculture related businesses. I just don't have the background to suggest parts of town or how many square feet or how many stories. It seems to me that maybe there could be zones set aside. I wouldn't want to loose the character of Main St. I would also like to be able to resolve education questions so as to attract more families with children.
101	I wish there were a way to locate wire in the school in some way- a wall?- whatever would work to enable it to be used as it was previously- small, sustainable business/yoga/etc.
102	The old school town leaders of the last decades have done well. Good luck to the next generation.

ResponseID Response

104	Maximize usefulness and maintainability of existing buildings (community house, school, former police/fire station on Main, apple shed). Intensify before expand. Find a way to provide a little more parking on Main Street.
105	Solar farm on appropriate town owned land to help reduce dependence on Eversource. Discussions with neighboring communities including those in Vermont to learn how they are addressing challenges of development.
108	I would like to see lighting standards put in place that restrict the emission of light to one's own property. Ex: The Verizon building on Main Street has very large, very bright light mounted ON THE VERIZON BUILDING shining OUT WARD away from the building, illuminating the surrounding area and homes. It is obnoxious and unnecessary. If they want to illuminate their building, they should put a light on a pole or stand in front of the building and shine it on their building, or put shields on the existing light so that light only illuminates their building and immediate area in front of their building. When earlier questions asked about "dark night skies", my first thought was "what dark night skies?" Not here on Main Street!
110	No more stone quarries. Monitor and regulate them. Require quarries to submit plans indicating how the landscape will be restored after the quarry is finished. Require them tops a bond to insure that they will be restored.
112	Cummington needs to grow to stay alive and healthy. I think it could be useful to identify another town that has successfully gone through this process and use their experience as a guide. I would like to see Cummington grow into a more dynamic community and think the best way to start that process is to focus on growing the downtown business community from the Cummington Inn to the Creamery.
115	For question #9: It seems like fields could be anywhere.
117	I think Cummington should stay away from big box stores, and chain stores.
118	Thank you for your work to put by laws in place that will protect our town from unwanted development.
119	Privacy and isolation are important to me. Cummington should remain small and rural. Big Business would destroy the character of the town.
121	Protect the natural beauty and wildlife habitats; bring in more sustainable energy sources.
122	Don't mind paying higher taxes for policies that promote optimal quality of life/maintenance of Cummington's unique beauty and character. Living here is a a rare, incredible gift. We should do everything we can to honor that gift.

ResponseID Response

125	Because of my pension I have to remain a resident of my home state. But as I live here most of the time, I see the most important future aspect of life in Cummington as its ability to attract young folks. The right combination of factors might need to include plans for the use of the school buildings for families and young people as well as future building projects. Thanks!
127	I see Cummington becoming more geared to the tourist trade. Summer houses/rentals for (NYC folk). I know it was a snow bowl before climate change. It is beautiful for hiking, bird watching, etc. You get my drift.
129	This kind of community doesn't exist in many places. While change is important and inevitable, it is critical that we not lose our ties to our history and the land that surrounds us. At the same time we must find a way to attract and retain young people with meaningful employment and reasonable housing options. This includes retrofitting and rehabbing the old school for use as a small business incubator/emergency shelter/agriculture hub (think: food pantry, farm/food businesses, year-round farmer's market). Additionally, we need to created an internship/craft/volunteer database for local businesses and artisans that can be shared with area schools--creating learning opportunities would lend local businesses much needed help while capturing students attention through meaningful engagement with our community.
130	First, to say thank for doing this survey. Second to say that we moved here because of the rural quality, the people and neighbors, the emphasis on small scale agriculture, and so clearly we love it for those reasons. I also understand that change happens and appreciate your thoughtful approach to thinking about sustainable ways to manage that.
131	No Dollar gen No fast food yes forest yes wetlands
132	I would like to see an increase in young families here in Cummington but value or rural character very highly
133	Expansion of village district and lowering the speed limit for rt 9
135	Preserving the rural character is very important to me: as little development as possible, no big box or chain stores, conservation of open wetlands and woodlands. Encouragement of small local businesses and the arts. I'd be interested in hearing from experts about how best to preserve what we have here, which feels to me like a rare and precious community.

ResponseID Response

136	Please create strict zoning rules that protect the rural character and the natural environment of Cummington. Absolutely no "chain" stores nationally or internationally owned "big business" other than utility and communication companies that directly serve the area, should be permitted. Please Please encourage small to medium sized locally owned businesses that support good paying jobs in clean energy, clean manufacturing, music, arts, services, IT, trades, agriculture, catering, baking, crafts, woodwork, design, auto mechanics, small engine repair, health care, sewing, consulting, education, child care, small shop food retail, home based entrepreneurs and inventors, transportation for elderly. Restore local public education to families and/or create adult education courses / new economy work retraining in the old elementary school, and perhaps partner with a local community college to become a satellite or extension facility. Support police through better interpersonal and social justice training, professional certification, and stronger social service networks in the Hilltowns, so police don't have to deal with societal issues we have neglected.
137	-- keep conservation, preservation, sustainability of natural environment in mind as we change -- people are attracted to Cummington's natural beauty, rural New England aesthetic (historic but not overly perfect), and relative affordability -- a difficult mix to sustain, but a strength to build on --Thank you for your work and this survey!
138	The choices provided do not reflect why many live here. You are already making value judgements in the questions and the choices given.
139	I want to send my thanks for all the work done to get the fiber internet installed and the level of communication that was provided during the process.
140	We shouldn't encourage big business, as it will greatly disturb the beauty of the town.
141	We like the rural character of Cummington as it is presently. That is the reason we chose to live here. Development of business is not something we value or will support. We would love to see a charter school or private school with rigorous academics come to town. If something like that were to be located in town, the supporting businesses would come without any prodding from local government.

ResponseID Response

142	Build on what we have... we need to see a growth in business related tax income to maintain low residential tax rates and to make local schooling doable again. This will require encouraging business development which reinforces the agrarian character which we already have, example: an indoor venue for local farmer's and food preparers including local farms, dairy, meat and even local cannabis with performance space could provide a tax resource to offset residential tax and provide local folks to sell what they have at retail prices... walking trails, year-round outdoor recreation would add to that attraction - gas station/pharmacy also should be encouraged as hill towns will lack this. Cummington is a post card community and that could become a destination of regional interest if it was done under a clear town branding and vision statement and marketed aggressively -
143	Hang in there Lee
144	A few well planned large employers would be nice. Encourage science and technology. Health care facilities would be nice too.
145	I think the Planning Board should move forward with a site plan review process for non residential development. I know ZBA thinks this is "overkill," but I think it is important to protect the character of the town, which we know is important to community members from recent years. If there is no traction for this, then a site plan review process should take place for all development that requires a special permit. I think size restriction on building size and characteristics must be dealt with urgently. I also think the board should look at a cannabis overlay district, using the active, open sites as a guide. The town cannot continue to get involved in law suits when town opinion is divided... it is costly and wasteful. Better to find compromise proactively. Arts and culture is excellent, and I support collaborative work with those boards working toward this. I want development in Cummington to reflect the rural values-- aesthetically, ethically, and in practice-- we have/hold as a community.
146	What is the definition of "rural character" (re: q.4 and 10, which left unanswered) Can't have lower taxes without some sort of businesses
150	I would like to see more opportunity for indoor recreation. A return of some pre-K-5th grade education with shared classrooms for adult education. A rural co-housing and open space community, that would provide suitable, energy efficient subsidized, low-middle income apartments and homes. All ages welcome and supported physically and socially, with community space inside and outside. Safe walking trails, a young and adult playground (yes, there are playgrounds for adults), and other enjoyable opportunities. With regular, small transportation services for commuters, enjoyment and errands. Maintaining the rural character, with restricted, yet doable laws that allow for opportunities for small business growth. Build community, with compassion, respect, good communication and opportunities.

ResponseID	Response
------------	----------

151	<p>My response is late, consider it if you will. Some question response choices are limited and leading. Why (or is it realistic) to exempt Municipal development from limits? Thanks for wading into this stuff for the Town's future.</p>
-----	---